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<div align="right">Atty Docket No.: 10006299-1
App. Ser. No.: 09/854,580</div>

<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please find a listing of the claims below. The statuses of the claims are shown in parentheses.

1. (Currently amended) An image enhancement method using face detection algorithms, comprising:

automatically detecting <u>one or more</u> human faces in an image using face detection algorithms;

automatically locating the <u>one or more</u> human faces in the image; and

automatically enhancing an appearance of the image by using a mapping technique to produce the image with target levels for a mean value or a variation value of the pixels in the <u>one or more</u> human faces.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the enhancing step includes automatically enhancing lightness levels of the <u>image to enhance the appearance of the one or more</u> human faces.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the enhancing step includes automatically enhancing contrast levels of the <u>image to enhance the appearance of the one or more</u> human faces.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the enhancing step includes automatically enhancing color levels of the <u>image to enhance the appearance of the one or more</u> human faces.

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5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the enhancing step

comprises:

reducing or removing the red eye artifact from the one or more human faces.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) An apparatus for enhancing an image using face detection

algorithms, comprising:

a module for automatically detecting human faces in an image using face detection

algorithms;

a module for automatically locating [[the]]one or more human faces in the image; and

a module for automatically enhancing an appearance of the image by using a mapping

technique to produce the image with target levels for a mean value or a variation value of the

pixels in the one or more human faces.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the image is a digital image.

10. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the module for

enhancing the appearances of the image includes a module for automatically enhancing

lightness levels of the image to enhance the appearance of the one or more human faces.

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11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the module for enhancing the appearances of the image includes a module for automatically enhancing contrast levels of the image to enhance the appearance of the one or more human faces.

12. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the module for enhancing the appearances of the image includes a module for automatically enhancing color levels of the image to enhance the appearance of the one or more human faces.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the module for enhancing the appearances of the image comprises:

a module for reducing or removing the red eye artifact from the one or more human faces.

15. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising instructions for image enhancement using face detection, the instructions comprising:

automatically detecting one or more human faces in an image using face detection algorithms;

automatically locating the one or more human faces in the image; and

automatically enhancing an appearance of the image by using a mapping technique to produce the image with target levels for a mean value or a variation value of the pixels in the one or more human faces, wherein the target levels are desirable lightness and contrast levels as determined through a determination of human visual preferences.

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16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein the instructions for enhancing the appearance of the image includes automatically enhancing color levels of the image to enhance the appearance of the one or more human faces to a target level as determined through a determination of human visual preferences.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 29, wherein the instructions for enhancing the appearance of the image comprises:

reducing or removing the red eye artifact of the human faces.

21. (Currently amended) A system for enhancing an image using face detection algorithms, said system comprising:

means for automatically detecting human faces in an image using face detection algorithms;

means for automatically locating the human faces in the image; and

means for automatically enhancing an appearance of the image by using a mapping technique to produce the image with target levels for a mean value or a variation value of the pixels in the human faces, wherein the target levels are desirable lightness and contrast levels as determined through a determination of human visual preferences.

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Claims 22-24. (Canceled).

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the means for enhancing includes means for automatically locating eyes in the human faces and means for reducing or removing the red eye artifact from the human faces.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the locating step includes automatically locating eyes in the human faces.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the module for locating the human faces includes a module for automatically locating eyes in the human faces.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein the instructions for locating the human faces include automatically locating eyes in the human faces.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the enhancing step further comprises enhancing the image by one of adding and subtracting a fixed amount to a lightness component of each pixel in the human faces, wherein the fixed amount is selected to produce an output image with a target mean lightness level of the pixels (x) in the face region, and wherein the output image (y) is determined through the following equation,

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$y = x + T$, where $T = m_t - m_x$, wherein m_x is the mean of x and T is a transformation

that substantially ensures that the m_x is equivalent to an output image m_t.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the enhancing step

further comprises enhancing the image by substantially ensuring that an output image (y) has

a target standard deviation σ_t, wherein the output image (y) is determined through the

following equation,

$$y = Tx + (1-T)m_x, \text{ where } T = \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_t^2}{\sigma_x^2}},$$ wherein x represents the face pixels in the

image, m_x is the mean of x, σ_x is the standard deviation of the face pixels x, and T is a

transformation that substantially ensures that the standard deviation σ_x is equivalent to the

target standard deviation σ_t.

32. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the target levels are desirable lightness

and contrast levels as determined through a determination of human visual preferences.

33. (New) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the target levels are desirable lightness

and contrast levels as determined through a determination of human visual preferences.